

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 03773 010623Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-07
OMB-01 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /061 W
-----010634Z 017657 /20

O 010455Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2907

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3773

PASS TO DR. BOURNE, SPEICIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT,
BY 0800 EDT JUNE 1

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, AF
SUBJ: PROPOSED STATEMENT ON AFGHAN OPIUM SITUATION FOR THE
PRESIDENT'S JUNE 1 SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR DR. PETER BOURNE

1. DURING A MAY 31 MEETING BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND
WHITE HOUSE NARCOTICS ADVISER CHARLES O'KEEFFE, IT WAS
DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE GOVERNMENT OF
AFGHANISTAN (GOA) COULD AGREE TO SOME LANGUAGE FOR THE
PRESIDENT TO INCLUDE IN SOME PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE
PROGRESS OF OUR ANTI-OPIUM EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN WHEN
HE APPEARS IN DR.PETER BOURNE AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE
OF DRUG ABUSE CONTROL ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1. ON THE
OTHER HAND, IT WAS FELT THAT SINGLING OUT AFGHANISTAN FOR

SOLE MENTION COULD POSSIBLY CREATE POTITICAL PROBLEMS IN
OUR BILATERAL RELATONSHIP.

2. ACCORDINGLY, THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS PROPOSED FOR
INCLUSION IN THE REMARKS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY.
BEGIN TEXT

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PAGE 02 KABUL 03773 010623Z

DR. BOURNE HAS ALREADY BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN OUR EFFORTS
TO CURB THE TERRIBLE PLAGUE OF NARCOTICS IN THE WORLD
TODAY, PERSONALLY VISITING SUCH MAJOR OPIUM-PRODUCING
COUNTRIES AS MEXICO, THAILAND, BURMA AND LAOS. IN
ALL OF THESE PLACES, HE FOUND LOCAL OFFICIALS WILLING
TO COOPERATE IN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
EFFORTS. (WHITE HOUSE TO ADD SPECIFICS ON THESE

COUNTRIES.) HIS OFFICE HAS ALSO BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, WHERE A LOCAL COMMISSION CONSISTING OF AFGHAN, AMERICAN AND UN OFFICIALS WILL MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE END OF JUNE OR IN EARLY JULY TO CONSIDER OPIUM TRAFFICKING PROBLEMS. ADDITIONALLY, THIS VERY WEEK FOUR AFGHAN NARCOTICS OFFICIALS ARE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT TRAINING. WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED THUS FAR, AND HOPE TO SEE SOLID RESULTS FROM OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS WITH THESE COUNTRIES IN THE COMING MONTHS. END TEXT

3. FYI: THE LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE WAS APPROVED EVENING OF MAY 31 BY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH DURING A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR. THE AMBASSADOR PRESSED THE MINISTER HARD TO AGREE TO INCLUDE A SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE CONVENING OF THE JOINT AFGHAN-US-UN COMMISSION, STATING THAT OTHERWISE WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOA IS NOT SERIOUS. ABDULLAH FINALLY AGREED TO THE "END-JUNE, EARLY-JULY" FORMULATION, SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC BECAUSE HE HAD TO MEET FIRST WITH THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS OF THE GOA NARCOTICS POLICY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT DAUD: THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND PLANNING. THIS MEETING HAD NOT YET BEEN ARRANGED, ABDULLAH SAID, BECAUSE HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN AWAY AT THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH HAD BEEN IN THE U.S., AND THE MINISTER OF PLANNING IS CURRENTLY IN IRAN. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABL 03773 010623Z

ABDULLAH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE REGARDS THE END-JUNE, EARLY-JULY DATE AS A FIRM COMMITMENT AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER COULD BE SO INFORMED.

4. ABDULLAH STRESSED A NUMBER OF OTHER POINTS AT 913 MAY 31/ MEETING. HE REVIEWED THE WELL KNOWN REASONS WHY IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE AFGHAN FARMERS AND TRIBESMEN TO STOP CULTIVATING OPIUM IN THE ABSENCE OF SUBSTITUTE MEANS OF INCOME. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING MEASURES. HE ASKED IF AFGHANISTAN WAS BEING SINGLED OUT FOR ATTENTION AS COMPARED TO, FOR EXAMPLE, PAKISTAN AND IRAN. (THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM THIS IS NOT THE CASE.) HE AVERRERD THAT THE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ADDICTS, NOT AFGHANISTAN, ARE THE REAL CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM. HE ASKED THAT THE U.S. STOP SENDING PEOPLE FROM WASHINGTON TO BADGER THE GOA, BUT INSTEAD GET READY TO SIT DOWN IN THE JOINT COMMISSION IN KABL TO CONSIDER PRACTICAL MEASURES SUCH AS TRAINING ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE

AFGHAN POLICE.

5. THE AMBASSADOR REVIEWED ALL THE REASONS WHY WE ARE
FOCUSING MORE ATTENTION ON AFGHANISTAN. HE ALSO
REVIEWED THE MANY PRACTICAL PROPOSALS WHICH HAD BEEN
MADE OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS TO WHICH WE HAD
RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. HE URGED THAT THE JOINT COMMISSION
TACKLE PRACTICAL QUESTIONS. (WE WILL BE
SENDING OUR RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.)
END FYI
ELIOT

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Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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To: STATE
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